

2016 Reservoir High School Marching Gators

Dear Marching Band Members and Parents:

Even though we are just now finishing up our school year, it is already time to make preparations for next school year. We have a lot of great opportunities coming up this year and it will take dedication and commitment from each and every member to make this year a success. The Marching Gators made a lot of progress last year. We welcomed many new faces, and have even more new faces this year! It is time renew our commitment to excellence, gather up your enthusiasm and prepare for what I think will be another great chapter in the RHS Marching Gators history.

We have many things to think about as we prepare for our season together; Band Camp in August, cheering on our football team at home games, marching competitions (including our own, Music in Motion) and the joy of meeting new members and making new friends. Inside you will find some important information so you can plan for our successful season.

Inside you will find the following information:

- Summer practice schedule
- MARCH-A-THON Information
- Band Camp Survival Guide
- Band Shoe/Glove Information
- Uniform Information
- USBands Ticket Information
- Marching Band Music information
- Communication Information
- Parent Chaperone/Volunteers
- Marching Band Calendar (July-Nov 2014) You will receive a full school year calendar when we return to school in the fall.

Please take note of all those items to ensure you are set up for a successful start to the season. We have a choice of how we want our season to go, let us *choose* to make this a great season. "Better every time!"

I can't wait for us to get started!

Sincerely,

David J. Bacon

Summer Marching Band Schedule

July Marching Band Clinics: 6-8PM

July 7 July 15 July 19 August 2

Students must attend TWO of the above clinics. Section Leaders and Drum Majors are encouraged to attend as many of these sessions as possible to help demonstrate proper technique to our new members. All participants should wear comfortable outside clothing and athletic shoes. You will not be permitted to march in sandals, flip-flops or bare feet.

Front Ensemble members do not need to attend the Marching Clinics. Students do not need their instrument for the marching clinics. If you cannot attend two clinics, you need to contact your section leader to arrange a make-up. Attendance will be taken, so make sure you plan ahead. If, after two clinics, you feel you need more practice, you are encouraged to attend more clinics.

MARCH-A-THON

This year marks the 13th Annual March-A-Thon. Marching band members will solicit sponsorships from friends, family and anybody else they can think of to raise money for every mile marched during band camp. Sponsors can pledge specific dollar amounts for every mile marched, or give a flat donation. Sections and individual students that raise the most money will receive various awards and prizes. The pledge sheet will be due during band camp. Each student is expected to raise \$50.00. I cannot stress the importance of this key fundraiser enough! Marching Band is an expensive activity. If each member contributes the minimum expectation, we can raise over \$3000. That will go a long way towards paying for our marching band expenses.

The pledge sheet will be due on August 17, 2016.
All money is due on September 8, 2016.

Marching Band Survival

Marching Band Camp can sound like an intimidating trial by fire. Many people have heard "horror stories" of their time in the blistering, hot, relentless sun. The truth is, it *is not* that bad. However, you need to be prepared to find success.

Marching Band Camp accounts for *over half* of our rehearsal time together. HALF!!!! It is absolutely vital that we have everybody present and in the best shape possible for the success of the band. Here are some things that will help you as you prepare.

Schedule:

Monday, August 8 through Friday, August 12	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday, August 15 through Thursday, August 18	1:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Friday, August 19	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
End of Band Camp Picnic and Performance	5:30 PM
Performance Time Approx. 6:30 PM	

Important guidelines and requirements *for your safety*:

- Wear ATHLETIC SHOES. Students wearing sandals or other open-toed shoes will not be permitted to participate.
- Wear a HAT, SUNGLASSES and LIGHT WEIGHT/LIGHT COLORED clothing.
- Bring and use SUNSCREEN.
- Bring a WATER-BOTTLE each and every day – and use it!
- Pack a LUNCH/DINNER for each day. We will have a 45 minute break to eat.
Students *will not be permitted to leave campus to get food*. Bring a snack for our shorter breaks throughout the day.
- You will need *at least* ONE SPIRAL-BOUND 3x5 INDEX CARDS and a STRING/LANYARD to hang the cards off your shoulder or neck.
- PENCIL
- INSTRUMENT and MUSIC

Band Shoes and Gloves

As part of our uniform, we use gloves and shoes from the same company to make sure we look sharp and precise. Shoes and gloves will be ordered during band camp. Be prepared with \$33.00 for black marching band shoes and \$2.50 per pair of gloves. (Each student should purchase at least 2 pairs of gloves.) Checks should be made payable to RHS Music Boosters.

Uniform Rental

Our Marching Band Uniforms will need to be cleaned periodically throughout the season. Because of this, the Music Boosters are required to charge a \$25.00 cleaning fee. Checks can be made payable to RHS Music Boosters. Please submit your payment to Mr. Bacon by August 15, 2016. Students will not be issued a uniform until the cleaning fee is paid.

USBands Competitions

The Marching Gators participate in the USBands marching circuit. Throughout the season, certain shows require us to sell a required amount of tickets to participate in the competition. These tickets can be purchased through the Music Boosters in the weeks

before a show. This is a great way to avoid the lines at the competitions and go right into the competition!

Marching Band Music

Students will be responsible for learning and memorizing their music prior to band camp. Band camp is not the time to look at your music for the first time. Please plan ahead!

If you lose your music during the summer, please contact Mr. Bacon via email for a replacement copy.

Communication

With so many moving parts to the Marching Gators, it is imperative that we all keep in touch. Please join our Music Boosters Listserv.

Send a blank email to rhsmusic-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Follow the Marching Gators on Twitter @marchinggators
Music Boosters Website: <http://rhsmusic.wikispaces.com>

Remind Service: Send the text message "@16rhssb" to number 81010. Remind is a free text message service I use to communicate important information to the students. It is safe, free and convenient. I kindly ask that all members and their parents sign up to receive messages.

Parent Volunteers/Chaperones

With all the activities we do, we require parental support, not just to be successful, but also to exist. We need parents to chaperone home football games, competitions, help us move our equipment when we travel and a number of other areas where parent help is crucial. Please consider signing up to help make our season a success. We cannot do it without your help and support. Check our website and listserv emails for details on volunteer positions that are upcoming.